



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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May 29, 1985

TO: John J. Whitehead, Permit Supervisor/Reclamation
Hydrologist

FROM: Steve Cox, Reclamation Biologist

RE: Response to Citizen Complaint, Kerley Industries,
Silver Reef Mine, ACT/053/002 and EXP/053/007,
Washington County, Utah

On May 23, 1985, Steve Cox and Ev Hooper visited the Silver Reef Property located near Leeds, Utah. The visit was in response to a citizen's complaint that the operator was dumping an unknown material in an area west of White Reef which had killed the vegetation around it. The complaint had also been made to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) who manages land in the area, and to the Health Department in St. George. David Brine and Gordon Cormier (BLM) and Steve Labrum (Health) were invited on the inspection, but were unable to make it.

During the inspection, it was noted that the unknown material which was being dumped was associated with exploration drill holes in the area. The material was probably a combination of hole plugging mud and cement. It had been dumped on the ground and some had run down small drainages which cross the site. The drill hole sites had been cleared of vegetation and numerous small roads had been made to connect them. There was assorted debris associated with the holes laying around. No signs of the mud killing the vegetation were observed, however, the presence of dead brush from clearing the drill hole pads may have been misinterpreted as being caused by the mud.

The damage observed does not present a major degradation of the site since it is located in an old mining area, however, the operator should adhere to exploration regulations which require clean up and revegetation of drill sites.

It is recommended that the C team review the exploration plan for this site and contact the operator concerning any failure to follow the approved plan.

btb
cc: Lowell Braxton
Wayne Hedberg
8878R-21